alone, requested treatment. She was taking 600 mg. of Tegretal at bedtime when started on Trexan and was only taking the Tegretal to sleep. She had no antidepressant effect. She was then started on 50 mg. of Trexan with Tegretal and she slept for three days. She was instructed to dissolve the Trexan in water and take gradually increasing doses beginning with less than 2 mg. per day. She was able to increase to 25 mg. daily and after several months became almost hypomanic, requiring periodic discontinuation of the Trexan to avoid becoming giddy on the job. She reported that it was the first medicine combination she had taken that improved her mood reliably.

Tegretal is a tricyclic but an anticonvulsant/antimanic rather than antidepressant.

EXAMPLE 9

It is expected that the patient of Example 8, above, would improve even further if her treatment with Tegretal plus Trexan (25 mg.) was supplemented or replaced with treatment administering lithium plus 25 mg. Trexan. This latter combination would solve her problems dosing herself with Tegretal and Trexan intermittently correct her excess giddiness or mania, while preventing depressive episodes.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating depression associated with alcoholism, comprising administering to a patient a pharmacologically effective dose of an opioid antagonist having a pentacyclic nucleus structurally analogous to naltrexone, naloxone, and nalmefene, and a phatmacologically effective dose of an antidepressant compound selected from the group consisting of a serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a tricyclic antidepressant, an atypical antidepressant, and lithium, their pharmacologically effective salts and esters, or combinations thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said opioid antagonist is selected from the group consisting of naltrexone hydrochloride, nalmefene, and the salt and esters of nalmefene.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmacologically effective dose of said opioid antagonist is a molar equivalent weight to 25 mg. of naltrexone hydrochloride.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmacologically effective dose of said opioid antagonist is a molar equivalent weight to 10 mg. of naltrexone hydrochloride.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said opioid antagonist and said antidepressant compound are administered using a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said antidepressant compound is selected from the group consisting of bupropion, sertraline, fluoxetine, paroxetine, trazodone, and their pharmacologically salts and ester, and combinations thereof.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said depressed patient is concomitantly being treated for a disorder selected from the group consisting of anxiety, mania, and convulsive disorder, wherein said anxiety disorder is being treated with a benzodiazepine compound, said mania is being treated with lithium and said convulsive disorder is being treated with an anticonvulsive active compound.

* * * * *

Add A1

Add B4